His Majesties DECLARATION

TO

All His Loving Subjects,

Concerning the

TREASONABLE CONSPIRACY

Against His

Sacred Person and Government,

Lately Discovered

Appointed to be Read in all Churches and Chappels within this Kingdom.

By his Majesties Special Command.

EDINBURGH,
Re-Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to his most Sacred Majesty. 1683.

At the Court at *Whitehall* This 29th of *July* 1683.

By the Kings most Excellent Majesty, and the Lords of His Majesties most Honourable Privy Council.

IT is this day Ordered by His Majesty in Council, That this Declaration be forthwith Printed, and Published.

PHIL. LLOYD.

Haly-rud-house, *the seventh day of* August 1683.

THE Lords of His Majesties Privy Council Do give Order and Warrand, that the under-written Declaration from His Sacred Majestie, be forthwith Registrated and Published.

WILL. PATERSON,

Cls. Sti. Concilij.

HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To all His Loving Subjects, concerning the Treasonable Conspiracy against His Sacred Person and Government, lately Discovered: Appointed to be Read in all Churches, and Chappels within this Kingdom.

CHARLES R.

IT hath been Our Observation, That for several Years last past, a Malevolent Party hath made it their Business to Promote Sedition by False News, Libellous Pamphlets, and other wicked Arts; whereby they Endeavoured not only to Render Our Government Odious, and Our most Faithful Subjects Suspected to the People, but even to Incite them to a Dislike and Hatred of Our Royal Person: Whereupon it was evident to Us, That the Heads of this Party could have no other Aim, but the Ruine of Us and Our Government.

And whilst by Our utmost Care, We manifested to all Our Subjects Our Zeal for the Maintenance of the Protestant Religion, and Our Resolutions to Govern according to Law; It was a great Trouble to Us to find, That Evil Persons by Misrepresenting Our Actions to the People, should so far Insinuate themselves into the Affections of the weaker Sort, as that they looked upon Them as the only Patriots and Assertors of their Religion and Liberties, and gave themselves up entirely to their Conduct.

As their Numbers increased, so did their Boldnesse, to that height, That by often shewing themselves in Tumultuous Riots, and Unlawful and Seditious Conventicles, They not on-

ly Engaged, but Proclaimed an Impunity to their own Party, who thought themselves already too strong for the Laws; and they seemed to believe, That in a short time they should gain upon the People, so as to perswade them to a total Defection from the Government.

But it pleased God, by these their violent Ways, to Open the Eyes of Our good Subjects, who easily Foresaw what Troubles these Methods would *Produce*: And thereupon with great Courage as well as Duty and Affection towards Us, upon all Occasions did Manifest their Resolution and *Readinesse* in Defence of Our Person, and Support of Our Government, and the Religion Established: And did likewise Convince the Common People of the Villanous Designs of their Factious Leaders, and the Miseries that would befal them in pursuing such Courses.

By these means the Factious Party lost Ground dayly, and finding that it was impossible to keep up the Spirits of their Followers, against the *Religion* Established, and the Laws; whilst We were Steady in the Maintenance and Execution of them, became Desperate, and Resolved not to Trust any longer to the slow Methods of *Sedition*, but to betake themselves to Arms; not doubting, but that they remained still strong enough by Force to Overturn the Government, which they could not Undermine.

It is hard to imagine how men of so many different Interests and Opinions, could joyn in any Enterprize; but it is certain, They readily Concurred in the Resolution of taking Arms to Destroy the Government, even before they had Agreed what to set up in the place of it.

To which purpose, they took several Ways; For, whilst some were Contriving a General Insurrection in this Kingdom, and likewise in *Scotland*; Others were Conspiring to Assassinate Our Royal Person, and Our *Dearest* Brother, and to Massacre the Magistrates of Our City of *London*, and Our

Officers

Officers of *State*, That there might be no Appearance of Government, nor any Means for Our Subjects to *Unite* for their *Defence*.

In case it had pleased God to permit these wicked Designs to have taken Effect, There could have been nothing in Prospect but Confusion: For, instead of the Reformation they pretended, their Success would have produced Divisions, and Wars among themselves, untill the Predominant Party could have Enslaved the rest, and the whole Kingdom.

But the Divine Providence, which hath preserved *Us* through the whole Course of Our Life, hath at this time in an Extraordinary manner, shewed it self in the Wonderful and Gracious Deliverance of *Us* and Our Dearest *Brother*, and all Our Loyal Subjects from this Horrid and Damnable Conspiracy.

As it is therefore Our desire that all Our Loving Subjects should joyn with *Us* in giving Thanks to Almighty God for this Mercy, so We thought it necessary they should be now in some measure Informed of the Fact as it hath been *Discovered* to *Us* by undoubted Proof, and the Confession of divers of the Accomplices in this Conspiracy, whereof, though We have not as yet perfectly Traced all the *Particulars*, the Principal and main *Designs* of it nevertheless, have appeared to be as followeth.

About the beginning of *October* last, when the Heads of the Faction saw the Magistracy of Our City of *London* Settled in Persons of Loyal Principles, they became impatient, and fell immediately to Consult of Rising in Arms; for which some thought their Party so well prepared, that they could not fail of attaining their Ends whenever they should break out into open Force.

Whereupon there was a Meeting of some of the *Principal* Conspirators, to Agree about the best means to Master Our Guards, and to Seize Our *Person*; but upon Consideration, they found it necessary to prepare their Friends in the several

Commiss, as also the Disaffected Party in *Scotland* to joyn with them, without which, any Attempt in Our said City, or upon Our Guards, appeared too rash to be undertaken; so that they laid aside the thoughts of a present Rising, and disposed themselves to find, by a Correspondence with *Scotland*, and with several parts of this Our Kingdom, how far they might be Assisted by a General Insurrection, so that they might not in Humane probability fail of Success.

Whilst this first Design was Forming, some Villains were likewise carrying on that Horrid and Execrable Plot of Assassinating Our Royal Person, and Our Dearest Brother, in Our coming from *Newmarket*, and Mony was deposited for that purpose: But by the shortness of the time (We being then immediatly upon our Return) and for want of necessary Preparations, they were forced to defer the Execution of it till further Opportunity.

It was then proposed among them, Whether they should Attempt the same at Our next going to *Newmarket*, in *March* last? But some objected, That Our Guards which usually remain here some time after Our Departure, would be capable of making a great Opposition upon the Arrival of the News. For which Reason, and because they were not then in a sufficient Readiness; It was Agreed to be done at Our Return from *Newmarket*.

The Place Appointed was the House of one *Richard Rumbold* a Maltster, called the *Rye*, near *Hoddesdon* in the County of *Hertford*: And it was Resolved, That Forty Persons in number, who were to be Actors in this Assassination, under the Command of the said *Richard Rumbold*, should hide themselves in or near the said House; And when Our Coach should come over against them, then Three or Four were to Shoot with Blunderbusses at the Postilion and Horses, and if they should fail of killing the Horses, some were to be ready in the way, who in the Habit of Labourers should Turn a Cart cross the Passage, and so stop Our Coach. Others were appointed to Shoot into the

Coach

Coach, where Our Royal Person, and Our Dearest Brother were to be: Others to Fire upon the Guards that should be then Attending Us. And it was further Resolved, That upon the same Day, Many Lords, and other Persons of Quality, whom they supposed favourable to their Design, should be Invited to Dine in Our City of *London*, That they might be the more ready to Appear among the Citizens upon Arrival of the News: The Actors in the said Assassination having Contrived the manner of their Escape, by a nearer Passage than the usual Road; By which means they hoped to get to *London* as soon as the News could be brought thither.

They thought it would be Easie upon their Perpetrating this Horrid Fact, to possess themselves of the Government, presuming upon the Numbers of the Disaffected.

But lest the Blackness of such an Action might Deter any from joyning with them, They Prepared to Palliate it, as far as they could, by some Remonstrance, or Declaration, which was ready to be Printed and Dispersed in that Confusion, to Amuse the People. And lest Our Officers of State, and the Magistrates of Our said City, with the *Militia* thereof, and other Our Loyal Subjects, should be able to put some Stop to their Career; They Resolved to follow this Blow with a Massacre, wherein they particularly Designed for immediate Slaughter, Our Officers of State, the present Lord Mayor, and Sheriffs, and the Magistracy of Our City, and other Our Subjects that had been most Eminent for their Loyalty.

But it pleased Almighty God, by His wonderful Providence, To Defeat these Councels by the sudden Fire at *Newmarket*, which necessitated Our Return from thence before the time We had appointed.

Yet these Villains were not thereby discouraged from Pursuing the same Bloudy Design, but Resolved to take the first Opportunity for Effecting the same, and proposed to themselves, That it might be done, either in Our Passage from *Windsor* to

Hampton

Hampton Court, or in Our Journey to *Winchester*, or when, We should go by Water in Our Barge, or under *Bedford* Garden Wall, as We should pass that way, or at the Bull Feast, which was to be in Red-Lyon-Fields; they being informed, That We and Our Dearest Brother had Intentions of coming thither.

And that they might be the better prepared, when there should be occasion, by having a certain Number of Arms lying always ready for that Purpose; Arms for Forty Men were bespoke in all haste, (*viz.*) Thirty Carbines with Belts and Swivels, Thirty Cases of Pistols, and ten Blunderbusses, which were accordingly Made and Paid for.

And for the more easie Drawing their Party together against the time of Execution, they Contrived to Divide Our Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the Suburbs, into Twenty Parts; from each of which they expected Five hundred men to be ready at the first Onset; And some Agitators were to give an Account of the men to be furnished in each Division, and to give out Orders to them, as there should be occasion.

And to the end the Forces they should Raise might be the sooner Modelled into the Form of an Army, there were One hundred Old Officers, who had been Engaged in the late Rebellion, ready in Town to take the Command of them; In the pursuit of which Project they continued, till they knew that a Discovery had been made unto Us.

During all this time, the Principal Conspirators were Managing their other Design for a General Insurrection in both Kingdoms.

The late Earl of *Shaftsbury*, who had at first pressed them to sudden Rising, which he would have had before the seventeenth of *November* last, or upon that day at the farthest, sent to the Conspirators, at a Meeting appointed by them, to know their Resolution; and finding they would not adventure without farther Preparation, conveyed himself secretly

into

into *Holland*, to avoid the danger he might be in by a Discovery.

His withdrawing himself from their Councels did not discourage them from pursuing their Design, only made them more Cautious; Whereupon a new Councel was appointed of Six Persons that were to have the chief Management of Affairs, in order to a General Insurrection, by a Correspondency with their party in *Scotland*, and several Counties of this Our Kingdom. And because a Correspondency by Letters was thought dangerous, it was held necessary that some person should be sent into *Scotland*, to invite the Heads of the Disaffected Party in that Our Kingdom, to come hither, under pretence of Purchasing Lands in *Carolina*; But, in truth, to Concert with them the best Means for carrying on the Design Joyntly in both Kingdoms: and a Treaty was thereupon had with *Archibald Campbel* late Earl of *Argile*, already attainted of Treason, who demanded thirty thousand Pounds at first; But afterward agreed to accept of ten thousand pounds, for buying of Arms in *Holland*, and making other Provisions necessary for a Rebellion within Our Kingdom of *Scotland*.

In the said Councel of six it was Debated, whether the Rising in this Kingdom, should be first in Our City of *London*, where, by reason of the vast Numbers that might readily Unite, they thought they might easily master the Guards, or rather in some remote parts, whereby We should be under a necessity of sending Our Guards to Suppress them, and thereby the Rising in Our said City, would become more Secure and Effectual: But at last it was Resolved, as most convenient, That it should be in all parts at the same time, lest Our City might be Defended by the *Militia* thereof, without the help of Our Guards; which We might send for the Suppressing any Insurrection in the Countrey; and they did all dispose themselves accordingly, for the Compassing their Design, which was very near taking Effect.

But

But such was the abundant Mercy of Almighty God, while they were yet meditating their Execrable Mischiefs against Our Royal Person, Our Dearest Brother, and the Government, a Discovery was made unto Us by one of the Accomplices, on the twelfth of *June* last; since which time, We have used the best Means We could for the Detecting, and Prevention of so Hellish a Conspiracy.

But so it has happened, that divers of the Conspirators, having notice of Warrants Issued out for their apprehension, are fled from Justice: *Viz. James* Duke of *Monmouth*, the Lord *Melvin*, Sir *John Cochrane*, Sir *Thomas Armestrong*, *Robert Ferguson*, who was the Common Agitator Entrusted by all parties in the several Conspiracies, *Richard Goodenough*, *Francis Goodenough*, *Richard Rumbold* the Maltster, *William Rumbold* his Brother, *Richard Neltthorp*, *Nathaniel Wade*, *William Thomson*, *James Burton*, *Joseph Elby*, *Samuel Gibbs*, *Francis Charleton*, *Joseph Tyley*, *Carstairs*, *Lobb*, both Non-Conformist Preachers, *Edward Norton*, *John Row*, *John Ayloff*, and *John Atherton*.

Ford Lord *Gray* being apprehended, made his Escape out of the hands of a Serjeant at Arms, and *Arthur* late Earl of *Essex*, being Committed to the *Tower* for High Treason, Killed himself.

Others have been Taken and Committed to Custody, some of whom, *Viz.* the Lord *William Russel*, *Thomas Walcot*, *William Hone*, and *John Rouse*, have upon their Tryals been Convicted, Attainted, and Executed according to Law.

This We thought fit to make known to Our Loving Subjects, that they being sensible (as We are) of the Mercy of God in this great Deliverance, may Chearfully and Devoutly joyn with Us in Returning Solemn Thanks to Almighty God for the same.

For which End We do hereby appoint the ninth day of *September* next, to be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving in all

all Churches and Chappels within this Our Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, in ſuch manner as ſhall be by Us Directed, in a Form of Prayer with Thankſgiving, which We have Commanded to be prepared by Our Biſhops, and Publiſhed for that purpoſe.

And it is Our Pleaſure, that this Declaration be publickly Read in all the ſaid Churches and Chappels, as well on *Sunday* the ſecond of *September* next, as upon the Day of Thankſgiving aforeſaid.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall *the eight and twentieth day of* July 1683. *In the Five and thirtieth Year of Our Reign.*

FINIS.

Chandler and Chapple will in this Condition of Peace, Land, Prosperity of Wales, and Town of Llanelly upon Tawe, [illegible] Hall [illegible] Kingdom, in a Time of Peace; [illegible] which we have Cause [illegible] to be prepared [illegible] and Fit Model for that purpose.

[illegible] Adoption, that this Declaration be publickly [illegible] Chandler and Chapple, as well on Sunday [illegible], as upon the Day of Thanksgiving [illegible].

Given under our Hands at Whitehall the eight and twentieth day of July 1802. In the First and thirteenth Year of our [illegible].

FINIS.